



City of New Bedford  
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### **City's Homeless Service Providers' Network Presents Annual Sister Rose Award**

**NEW BEDFORD, MA** – Today, the Homeless Service Providers' Network (HSPN) presented the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sister Rose Award for excellence and dedication to homeless service provision in the New Bedford Continuum of Care to Shelly Correia, Director of the HarbOur House family homeless shelter. The award ceremony took place at the end of the monthly HSPN meeting held at the Office of Housing and Community Development. The award, named in honor of its first recipient, Market Ministries Executive Director Sister Rose Ellen Gallogly, is given annually to a individual from within the homeless continuum of care in recognition of his or her compassion, achievement, and dedication to the principle that every person is entitled to live with dignity. Nominations are gathered from colleagues through the City's Homeless Service Providers' Network (HSPN), the membership component of the continuum. The final decision is made by the HSPN's Executive Committee, and announced at an event during the City's Community Development Block Grant Week.

"This award ceremony has been a centerpiece of CDBG week for the last 5 years," said Mayor Lang. "It is an opportunity for the provider community to honor one of its own, and to celebrate the great work entire network does for our most vulnerable citizens."

"This award is very near and dear to us in the Office of Housing and Community Development," said Patrick Sullivan, OHCD Director. "As the convening body of the HSPN, we have a very close working relationship with the Continuum of Care providers in New Bedford. We appreciate how challenging and difficult this work is, and how crucial. These people are truly heroic and deserve to be recognized. Shelly is a prime example of this group's compassion, dedication, and work ethic."

Ms. Correia has a long and distinguished career in homeless service. She has worked with homeless families since 1997, and been at HarbOur House since 2001, where she began as a case manager. Ms. Correia has certifications in substance use and abuse, and is trained in HIV education and prevention, counseling, and testing. Her experience includes facilitating support/educational groups for incarcerated women at the Dartmouth House of Corrections. Ms. Correia is an active member of the Homeless Service Provider Network, belongs to the New Bedford Historical Society, and collaborates and advocates with The Coalition Against Poverty and The Coalition for Social Justice.

During Ms. Correia's tenure as Executive Director of HarbOur House, the shelter has established a state-of-the-art playroom, installed a modern four-station kitchen so all families can enjoy their own home-cooked meals. The shelter has also started a fathers' support group, a stress management program for HarbOur House children, parenting classes, a backpack drive, a reading program, an expressive art program, and many other programs aimed at improving and enriching the lives of families in the shelter and preparing them for life beyond.

For the second year in a row, Ms. Correia has organized an annual Friend Raiser event, aimed at raising public awareness of the growing problem of family homelessness. This year's event will be held on Mother's Day, with a theme of Hats Off to Mothers.

Steve Montembault, COO and Vice President of Resident Services for Southeast Regional Network, which operates the HarbOur House Shelter said "because of the example she sets daily, Shelly deserves recognition, recognition that she never seeks for herself. It is a difficult feat juggling compassion and achievement, but she does so within an environment that is challenging, to say the least."

For more information about the Sister Rose Award and the HSPN, please call the Office of Housing and Community Development at 508-979-1500.

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